

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 51.565

opposite side, end or top of the container. Such measurement shall not include the bulge. In any container when stalk length is specified, it shall be the minimum length in terms of whole inches of even number, as 12 inches, 14 inches, etc., in accordance with the facts.

(c) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, the following tolerances shall be permitted:

(1) *For defects.* 10 percent, by count, in any lot for stalks which fail to meet the requirements of the grade, including therein not more than 2 percent for soft rot;

(2) *For off-length stalks.* 5 percent, by count, in any lot for stalks which fail to meet the minimum length required or specified; and,

(3) *For off-length midribs.* 5 percent, by count, in any lot for stalks which fail to meet the requirements as to average midrib length.

§ 51.562 U.S. No. 2.

“U.S. No. 2” consists of stalks of celery of similar varietal characteristics which are reasonably well developed, reasonably well formed, fairly well trimmed and are free from blackheart and soft rot and free from serious damage caused by freezing, growth cracks, horizontal cracks, pithy branches, seedstems, dirt, doubles, wilting, blight, other disease, insects or mechanical or other means. Stalks shall be green unless specified as fairly well blanched, or mixed blanch.

(a) Unless otherwise specified, the average midrib length of the outer whorl of branches shall be not less than 4 inches.

(b) Unless otherwise specified in connection with the grade, stalks shall be of such length as to extend from one side, end or bottom of the container to within 1½ inches of the corresponding opposite side, end or top of the container. Such measurement shall not include the bulge. In any container when stalk length is specified, it shall be the minimum length in terms of whole inches of even number, as 12 inches, 14 inches, etc., in accordance with the facts.

(c) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling,

the following tolerances shall be permitted:

(1) *For defects.* 10 percent, by count, in any lot for stalks which fail to meet the requirements of the grade, including therein not more than 2 percent for soft rot;

(2) *For off-length stalks.* 5 percent, by count, in any lot for stalks which fail to meet the minimum length required or specified; and,

(3) *For off-length midribs.* 5 percent, by count, in any lot for stalks which fail to meet the requirements as to average midrib length.

UNCLASSIFIED

§ 51.563 Unclassified.

“Unclassified” consists of stalks of celery which have not been classified in accordance with any of the foregoing grades. The term “unclassified” is not a grade within the meaning of these standards but is provided as a designation to show that no grade has been applied to the lot.

COUNT

§ 51.564 Requirements as to count.

(a) The number of stalks of celery in the container may be specified by numerical count or in terms of dozens or half-dozens. Variations from the number specified shall be permitted as follows: *Provided*, That the average for the lot is not less than the number specified:

Specified number per package	Variations permitted in individual packages
24 stalks or less	1 stalk variation.
25 to 50 stalks, inclusive	3 stalk variation.
51 to 70 stalks, inclusive	4 stalk variation.
More than 70 stalks	5 stalk variation.

APPLICATION OF TOLERANCES

§ 51.565 Application of tolerances.

(a) The contents of individual packages in the lot, based on sample inspection, are subject to the following limitations: *Provided*, That the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified:

(1) For packages which contain 20 specimens or more and a tolerance of 10 percent or more is provided, individual packages in any lot may contain not

more than one and one-half times the tolerance specified. For packages which contain 20 specimens or more and a tolerance of less than 10 percent is provided, individual packages may contain not more than double the tolerance specified except that at least one defective and one off-size specimen may be permitted in any package; and,

(2) For packages which contain less than 20 specimens, individual packages in any lot may contain not more than double the tolerance specified, except that at least one defective and one off-size specimen may be permitted in any package: *Provided*, That for packages which contain 6 specimens or less, individual packages in any lot are not restricted as to the percentage of defects: *And provided further*, That not more than one specimen which is affected by decay or otherwise seriously damaged and one off-size specimen may be permitted in any package.

DEFINITIONS

§ 51.566 Stalk.

Stalk means an individual plant.

§ 51.567 Similar varietal characteristics.

Similar varietal characteristics means that the stalks in any package have the same general appearance and character of growth.

§ 51.568 Well developed.

Well developed means that the branches are of good width and thickness in relation to the length of midribs and type of celery and that the heart branches are of reasonable number, length and stockiness.

§ 51.569 Well formed.

Well formed means that the branches are fairly straight and not more than slightly curved or twisted.

§ 51.570 Clean.

Clean means that the stalk is practically free from dirt or other foreign material. Stalks shall be permitted to have a small amount of dirt on the inside of the branches or in the heart branches which cannot be removed by good commercial methods of washing.

§ 51.571 Well trimmed.

Well trimmed means that not more than 2 relatively thin, short or spindly, or coarse and fibrous outer branches remain; that the main root has been cut off so as not to extend more than 1½ inches below the point of attachment of the lowest outer branch; that secondary rootlets are not of such number or length as to materially affect the appearance of the stalk; and, that the appearance is not materially affected by the presence of discolored leaves or by excessive removal of leaves or portions of leaves.

§ 51.572 Compact.

Compact means that the branches on the stalk are fairly close together throughout most of their length.

§ 51.573 Damage.

Damage, unless otherwise specifically defined in this section, means any defect which materially affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the celery stalk or the general appearance of the stalks in the container. Any one of the following defects, or any combination of defects the seriousness of which exceeds the maximum allowed for any one defect, shall be considered as damage:

(a) Growth cracks when more than 2 branches are affected by growth cracks which are over one-half inch in length, or when more than 6 branches have growth cracks;

(b) Horizontal cracks when more than 3 branches have horizontal cracks which are over one-half inch in length, or when more than 6 branches have horizontal cracks;

(c) Pithy branches when more than 2 are pithy in that portion of the midrib between a point 1½ inches above the point of attachment to the base and the first node, or between a point 1½ inches below the first node and the point of attachment to the base, or when pith occurs at both ends of the midrib and more than a total of 1½ inches is affected: *Provided*, That stalks having 6 outer branches or less shall have not more than one-third of the outer branches affected by pith as described above;

(d) Seedstems when the length of seedstem exceeds twice the diameter of